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Agenda item 5
**Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory**

**Security Council**
**Seventy-first year**

## Identical letters dated 29 December 2016 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I write to you following the adoption by the Security Council of resolution 2334 (2016) of 23 December 2016, a significant undertaking that has been resoundingly welcomed and accepted by the Palestinian people and their leadership, who remain steadfast in their commitment to pursuing the path of peace and achieving freedom, rights and justice on this path. While long overdue, this action by the Council is viewed as most timely, necessary and important, a view expressed by the overwhelming majority of the international community, which has welcomed the resolution's adoption.

Resolution 2334 (2016) reaffirms, inter alia, the relevant Security Council resolutions and the decades-long position that Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, have no legal validity, constitute flagrant violations under international law, in particular the Fourth Geneva Convention, and constitute a major obstacle to peace, severely diminishing the viability of the two-State solution on the basis of the 1967 borders and the possibility of realizing it and a just, lasting and comprehensive peace. Moreover, the Security Council called again, inter alia, for an immediate and complete cessation of all settlement activities by Israel, the occupying Power, and full respect of its legal obligations in this regard, stressing that this is essential for salvaging the two-State solution.

Bearing all this in mind, it is significant that the Council underscored that it would not recognize any changes to the 4 June 1967 lines, including with regard to Jerusalem, other than those agreed upon by the parties through negotiations, and called upon all States to distinguish, in their relevant dealings, between the territory of the State of Israel and the territories occupied since 1967. In resolution 2334 (2016), the Security Council calls for affirmative steps to be taken to reverse the



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negative trends on the ground, including with regard to settlement activities and prevention of all acts of violence against civilians, including acts of terror, and all acts of provocation, incitement and destruction, and to de-escalate the situation and create the conditions necessary for promoting peace.

In this regard, the Council called upon the parties to act on the basis of international law, and stressed the urgency of the intensification of international and regional efforts and support aimed at achieving without delay a comprehensive, just and lasting peace, on the basis of the relevant United Nations resolutions, the Madrid terms of reference, including the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Quartet road map, and an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967. The ongoing efforts to advance the Arab Peace Initiative, as well as the efforts of France to convene an international peace conference and the efforts of the Quartet, Egypt and the Russian Federation, were also highlighted in this regard, underscoring the necessity of charting a new horizon for peace.

Regrettably, in contrast to the global welcome and importance accorded to resolution 2334 (2016), we are witnessing the extremely hostile and negative reaction by the Government of Israel, the occupying Power, to the Security Council's action. Despite the fact that the resolution was adopted in full conformity and consistency with the Charter of the United Nations, international law, the relevant resolutions and the long-standing consensus on this matter, the Government of Israel has vehemently rejected the resolution, using belligerent language and even intimidation of and casting threats against those Member States that supported the resolution, demeaning them and flatly declaring its refusal to accept the resolution.

As widely reported, in the days immediately following the adoption of resolution 2334 (2016), the Government of Israel declared that it would move ahead with the construction of thousands of new settlement units, in particular in Occupied East Jerusalem, as well as the schemes in the Knesset to further entrench its so-called "settlement outposts" and effectively violate, distort and undermine all laws applicable to this situation. Moreover, the Government has declared that it would "not turn the other cheek", among various other hostile pronouncements and inflammatory rhetoric.

Clearly, at the moment, all indications are — as reflected in both the words of the Prime Minister of Israel and members of his Cabinet and the destructive actions that continue to be perpetrated on the ground by the occupying forces — that Israel intends to proceed apace with its illegal policies, plans and measures in Occupied Palestine, including East Jerusalem, in blatant contempt of resolution 2334 (2016), in grave violation of its legal obligations and in total contradiction to the two-State solution. Indeed, all indications are that Israel intends only to continue flouting the law and ignoring the will of the international community, instead persisting with its oppression and denial of the rights of the Palestinian people, further entrenching its illegal half-century of foreign occupation, further eroding the two-State solution and perpetuating a one-State reality, with far-reaching consequences.

In response to all of the above-mentioned facts, serious and immediate follow-up efforts are required to give meaning and tangible effect to resolution 2334 (2016). The international community must condemn this behaviour and rhetoric of Israel; it should not be rewarded in any way whatsoever for its intransigence, its violations and its continued obstruction of the peace and security being sought by

the Security Council, along with the entirety of the rest of the international community, including the Arab States, whose historic peace initiative remains a cornerstone for peace — Palestinian-Israeli peace and Arab-Israeli peace.

As we did on 23 December 2016, we again appeal to the Security Council to stand firm in its decision and the law and to stand on the right side of history. It should not be cowed or intimidated by the hostile reaction of the occupying Power or the negative spin or threats. Rather, it must act resolutely to demand compliance with the law in order to tangibly contribute to the de-escalation of tensions and a reversal of the negative trends on the ground and to salvage the two-State solution and the prospects for peace, whereby an independent, sovereign and contiguous State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, can exist side by side with the State of Israel in peace and within secure and recognized borders, and all final status issues will be justly and satisfactorily resolved, including a just solution for the Palestine refugees.

We are confident that this lofty objective of peace was indeed the objective of the members of the Security Council that sponsored and presented the resolution for action and all those supporting its adoption. We thus urge, at this critical juncture, the Council and all States to act with seriousness of purpose and intent to uphold the law and implement this resolution, with due respect for the Charter of the United Nations and all other relevant resolutions, for the sake of peace for both peoples and our region.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 599 previous letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 20 December 2016 (A/ES-10/736-S/2016/1083) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations

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**Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory**

**Security Council**
**Seventy-second year**

## Identical letters dated 5 January 2017 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

As a new year has begun, the Palestinian people living under Israel's nearly 50-year-old military occupation continue to face an unrelenting barrage of oppressive, illegal and destructive measures by Israel, the occupying Power.

Sadly, for the Palestinian people, 2016 ended the same way that 2017 began in that not for a minute has the occupying Power ceased its illegal policies and measures in Occupied Palestine, including East Jerusalem. Despite the repeated appeals and calls of the international community, including the recent adoption of Security Council resolution 2334 (2016), Israel continues with its violations against the Palestinian people and their land with total disregard for the law and without fear of consequences. In fact, the current Israeli right-wing Government under the leadership of Benjamin Netanyahu seems to be interested only in causing more suffering for the Palestinian people, entrenching its occupation and destroying the contiguity and viability of the Palestinian land along with the prospects for realizing the two-State solution for peace.

This is evidenced in the deteriorating situation in the West Bank, where Israel's settlement colonization activities and land grab have continued unabated, including the forced displacement of thousands more Palestinians, including Bedouin families, particularly in the areas of Occupied East Jerusalem and the Jordan Valley, the confiscation of huge tracts of land and the destruction of hundreds more Palestinian homes and properties to facilitate the expansion of Israeli settlements and the wall. It is also evidenced in the continuing detention, arrest, imprisonment and torture of thousands of Palestinian civilians, including children, and the unrelenting violence and provocations by extremist Israeli settlers. The situation in the Gaza Strip is also intolerable as the imposition of a nearly 10-year crippling, dehumanizing and illegal blockade of nearly 2 million Palestinians



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continues to subject the Palestinian population there to collective punishment, in contravention of international human rights and humanitarian law.

As it is impossible to document every single Israeli crime against the Palestinian people, we will continue to document them as best as we can in our letters in our determined pursuit of accountability. In this regard, I have included in an annex to the present letter a brief review of the grave breaches perpetrated by Israel, the occupying Power, in addition to those crimes included in our letters sent in December 2016, to be included in this ongoing criminal record.

We continue to call on Member States of the United Nations to redouble their efforts, individually and collectively, in accordance with their obligations under international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, and consistent with the relevant United Nations resolutions, to hold Israel, the occupying Power, accountable for all of its violations. After almost 50 years of occupation and nearly 70 years since Al-Nakba, we will not relent in our calls and efforts for the upholding of international law and the fulfilment of our inalienable rights and legitimate national aspirations, including to independence in our State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

With its adoption of resolution 2334 (2016), we look to the Security Council to continue to call for compliance with the law and finally compel the occupying Power to end all its violations against our people in order to tangibly contribute to the de-escalation of tensions and a reversal of the destructive trends on the ground with the aim of saving the two-State solution and the prospects for peace.

This letter is in follow-up to our 600 previous letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 29 December 2016 (A/ES-10/737-S/2016/1132) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations

## Annex to the identical letters dated 5 January 2017 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

**21 December 2016**

- Israeli occupying forces detained at least 26 Palestinians, including 7 minors, in military raids across the occupied West Bank.
- Israeli occupying forces demolished a 55-square-metre room, which had been built six months ago in the Al-Thawri area of the occupied East Jerusalem neighbourhood of Silwan, under the bogus pretext of lacking a building permit.

**22 December 2016**

- Israeli occupying forces shot and killed Ahmad Al-Kharroubi (age 19) in the occupied East Jerusalem neighbourhood of Kafr Aqab when the occupying forces raided the area to carry out an illegal punitive home demolition.
- Three Palestinian teenagers, Yazan Nabih Deiriyeh (age 16), Mohammad Ayman Taqatqa (age 16) and Ibrahim Jibril Taqatqa (age 16), currently held at Israel's so-called "Etzion" detention center, were beaten by occupying forces during their military raid and arrest campaign.

  According to the Palestinian prisoners rights group Addameer, 400 Palestinian minors have been detained by Israel since October 2015, many of whom the group said have been beaten, threatened, sexually assaulted and placed in solitary confinement during their interrogation and detention.
- An Israeli settler attempted to run over two Palestinian children, Ahmad Saber Zamel Abu Maria (age 11) and his sister Ritaj (age 17), in his vehicle while they were on their way to school in the Beita Zaata area of Beit Ummar in the southern part of Hebron.
- Israeli occupying forces carried out multiple military raids across the occupied West Bank before dawn, detaining at least 12 Palestinians, including a Palestinian who had been previously imprisoned by Israel.

**23 December 2016**

- A Palestinian child, Fares Ziad Al-Bayed (age 16) succumbed to his wounds after being shot in the head by Israeli occupying forces on 15 October in the Al-Jalazun refugee camp near Ramallah.

**27 December 2016**

- Israeli occupying forces detained 11 Palestinians during overnight military raids across the occupied West Bank.
- Israeli occupying forces demolished an agricultural water tank and structure in the town of Idhna, south of Al-Khalil, under the bogus pretext that they lacked building permits.

**28 December 2016**

- Israeli occupying forces detained 10 Palestinians from the West Bank in overnight military raids.
- Israeli occupying forces demolished Palestinian-owned structures in the occupied East Jerusalem neighbourhood of Silwan under the bogus pretext that they lacked building permits.

**30 December 2016**

- A Palestinian woman, Jihan Mohammad Hashimeh (age 35), from the neighbourhood of Al-Issawiya in occupied East Jerusalem, was injured as a result of being shot by Israeli occupying forces at the Qalandiya illegal checkpoint between Ramallah and East Jerusalem. Witnesses said that the occupying forces opened fire on the woman, who was walking towards the vehicle lane at the checkpoint. Locals said that Hashimeh was ill and that she was on her way to East Jerusalem for medical treatment when she entered the vehicle lane by mistake.

**1 January 2017**

- Israeli settlers attempted to establish a new illegal outpost on private Palestinian land in Nablus. Abd Al-Karim Hussein, the mayor of Azmut, north-east of Nablus, said that Israeli settlers had brought mobile homes to the Ras Al-Ein area in the eastern suburbs of Azmut, and highlighted that the new outpost was located just a few hundred metres away from the illegal "Elon Moreh" settlement.

**2 January 2017**

- Israeli occupying forces detained eight Palestinians in occupied East Jerusalem, including five children ranging between 15 and 17 years of age, and also detained three Palestinians in Al-Khalil, including two Palestinians previously imprisoned by Israel.
- Israeli bulldozers demolished 10 dwellings housing Bedouins in the Khan al-Ahmar area east of East Jerusalem under the bogus pretext that they were built without a permit. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs has reported that Israeli demolitions reached a record number in 2016, displacing almost 1,600 Palestinians and affecting the livelihoods of more than 7,000 people.

**3 January 2017**

- Israeli occupying forces demolished at least 13 residential structures, including a school, in the Bedouin village of Khirbet Tana in the northern Jordan Valley. The school was built with funding from the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations.

  According to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the repeated waves of demolition carried out by the occupying Power make it extremely difficult for Khirbet Tana residents to live in stability, to sustain

their livelihood, or, given the repeated demolition of the village school, to educate their children.

- Israeli occupying forces detained at least 36 Palestinians, including minors, as well as Palestinians who had been imprisoned previously by Israeli occupying forces, during a wide-scale raid, search and arrest campaign in several West Bank cities and villages.

**4 January 2017**

- The occupying forces demolished a Palestinian-owned house in the Al-Ashraqiya area of Beit Hanina, a neighbourhood in occupied East Jerusalem, under the bogus pretext that it had been built without a permit.
- Israeli occupying forces demolished wells built to collect rainwater in the village of Taqou, east of Bethlehem.
- Israeli occupying forces razed lands in the Al-Mreij area, located at the western entrance of Kafr el-Dik in Salfit.
- A 39-year-old woman from Al-Khalil, Bayan Aqel, and her daughter, Fatima, were among 31 Palestinians whom the Israeli occupying forces detained during overnight wide-scale military raids throughout the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem.

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**Security Council**
**Seventy-second year**

## Identical letters dated 20 January 2017 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I write to draw your immediate attention to the critical situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in which more Palestinian civilians, including children, continue to be killed, including by extrajudicial execution, and severely injured as a result of the excessive use of force by Israeli occupying forces.

On Monday, 16 January 2017, a Palestinian youth, 17-year-old Qusai Al-Amour, was fatally shot in the village of Tuqou', near Bethlehem, in the occupied West Bank. Qusai was among a group of civilians protesting the Israeli occupying forces' presence in his village. Qusai was not armed with a gun or a knife, but rather with stones, in comparison with the occupying forces, who arrived in armoured military jeeps and were armed with the most sophisticated lethal weaponry. As in the case of many other killings of Palestinians by the occupying Power, video footage displayed the horrific event for the world to see. In this regard, the video of Qusai's murder clearly showed his body lying motionless on the ground in an olive grove. The video then showed the Israeli occupying forces jumping on his body, grabbing him by his arms and legs and dragging him back to their military jeeps, all while his body was limp and his head repeatedly hit the ground. His relatives and friends at the scene rushed to Qusai's aid, only to also be shot at and wounded by the Israeli soldiers.

Besides establishing the truth of the appalling murder of Qusai, the video of this tragic incident provides further evidence of the routine, inhumane and criminal actions being perpetrated by an immoral occupying force against a defenceless civilian population. This, as with so many other similar incidents, dispels the constant false narrative being spewed by Israeli officials after such heinous murders of young Palestinians are carried out.

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The day after the brutal murder of Qusai, Israeli occupying forces extrajudicially executed another Palestinian. In this age of digital technology, this barbaric murder was also captured on video for the world to see. This time, it was a 44-year-old Palestinian man, Nidal Daoud Mahdawi, from the Shweika area, north of Tulkarem, and the father of five children. The video of the incident showed Nidal walking through an illegal Israeli military checkpoint and being shot by the occupying forces. It then showed Nidal's lifeless body falling to the ground.

A week before the killings of Qusai and Nidal, another Palestinian man was killed. This time, it was Mohammed Salhi, age 32, who was killed in his home in the Al-Fara'a refugee camp, located near Nablus and Tubas. At approximately 2.30 a.m. on 10 January 2017, more than 10 Israeli soldiers broke into his home and killed Mohammed in a hail of gunfire. The occupying forces had purportedly entered Mohammed's home in order to conduct a military raid on another home. Mohammed lived with his ailing mother, who watched the murder of her son take place before her own eyes. Instead of allowing her to help her son and to grieve his death, the Israeli soldiers locked her in a small room in her home for hours while her son lay on the ground bleeding to death, until they completed their raid on the other home.

These are but a few incidents that once again reflect in stark and painful terms the occupying Power's total disregard for Palestinian life. The dignity and humanity of the Palestinian people are routinely violated and dismissed by the Israeli occupying forces, as is their basic right to life, all without consequence as the perpetrators of these crimes against our people continue to evade accountability for their violations and crimes.

As evidenced by the killings noted above and a mounting list of human rights violations and international humanitarian law violations, described in the annex to the present letter, Israel, the occupying Power, remains in complete and utter contempt of the law. Its deliberate and systematic violations and crimes are causing endless destruction, suffering and anguish for the Palestinian people. The crimes committed are intolerable and must be roundly condemned. Beyond condemnation, however, the international community, including the Security Council, must demand that Israel, the occupying Power, immediately end all its violations and crimes against Palestinian civilians and comply with its obligations under international law, a call made clearly and unequivocally by the General Assembly and the Security Council in countless resolutions, which include, most recently, resolution 2334 (2016) and which must be abided by without exception.

The Palestinian people and the goal of peace will, tragically, continue to suffer as long as Israel, the occupying Power, remains immune from the consequences of its human rights violations and crimes. In this regard, we are of the firm conviction that only accountability can remedy the prevailing culture of impunity and compel respect for international law and human rights. Implementation of the law, including that enshrined in the relevant United Nations resolutions, is absolutely imperative in this regard. The international community must take all necessary actions to ensure that Israel ceases from acting as a State above the law and to finally end its illegal occupation and oppression against the Palestinian people and their land in all its manifestations. This is the only path to peace.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 601 previous letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 5 January 2017 (A/ES-10/738-S/2017/14), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations

## Annex to the identical letters dated 20 January 2017 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

**5 January 2017**

- The Israeli occupying navy attacked Palestinian boats that were sailing near the Al-Sudaniya area, which is some 4 nautical miles off the Gaza Shore, chased them and opened fire on them, causing serious damage to them. The attack caused one of the boats to sink, and the fisherman on board, Muhammad Hassi, has yet to be found.

**6 January 2017**

- A 40-year-old Palestinian man was seriously injured as a result of being run over by the car of an illegal Israeli settler while he was walking on the side of the road south of Nablus city.

**8 January 2017**

- Israeli occupying forces detained three Palestinians, including two minors, during military raids on several cities in the occupied West Bank.
- A group of extremist Israeli settlers, accompanied and protected by occupying forces, illegally seized a building in the occupied East Jerusalem neighbourhood of Silwan that belongs to Hani Sarhan, a Palestinian from East Jerusalem who was in Jordan at the time.
- Illegal settler organizations have recently been able to seize many buildings and homes in the Silwan area, turning them into illegal settlement outposts. Israeli occupying forces have also, in recent years, demolished some 88 houses in Silwan for the purpose of expanding illegal settlement activities.

**9 January 2017**

- Israeli occupying forces levelled Palestinian-owned land and demolished a stall in the village of Marda, near Salfit town in the West Bank, under the bogus pretext of "construction without a permit".
- Israeli occupying forces detained 20 Palestinians during large-scale military raids and arrest and search operations in several cities throughout the occupied West Bank.
- Illegal Israeli settlers attacked Palestinian vehicles while passing near the villages of Huwwara and Burin, south of Nablus, causing damage to dozens of Palestinian vehicles. Illegal settlers also physically assaulted Palestinian passengers near the two villages after forcing them to get out of their vehicles.
- Israeli occupying forces issued orders to demolish two structures in the village of Al-Fakhit, south of Al-Khalil, under the bogus pretext that the structures had been built in Area C without permission. The two structures were donated by the Italian Cooperation as part of European humanitarian assistance to

Palestinians living in Area C. Humanitarian organizations have said that Israel has demolished more structures in Area C in 2016 than in any previous year.

**10 January 2017**

- Israeli occupying forces shot and killed Mohammad Salhi (age 32) after violently raiding his home to gain access to another home next door. Salhi was left to bleed to death during a large-scale military raid on the Al-Fara'a refugee camp, south of Tubas.
- Israeli occupying forces assaulted an 80-year-old Palestinian woman, Shafiqa Joumaa, during a military raid on the village of Kufr Qaddoum, east of Qalqilya.
- Israeli occupying forces detained 25 Palestinians in overnight military raids on several cities in the occupied West Bank.
- Israeli occupying forces destroyed an 11-kilometre water pipeline that had been used to transport water from Atuf village to 36 Palestinian families in the Tubas localities of Ras Al-Ahmar and Al-Hadidiya, in the Jordan Valley.

**11 January 2017**

- An Israeli bulldozer razed a road that was rehabilitated using donors' aid near the village of Al-Boweib in Masafer Yatta, south of Al-Khalil. The road is vital and links many communities in the south of Al-Khalil.
- Israeli occupying forces detained 36 Palestinians, including a senior Palestinian official who had formerly served as Governor of Jenin, during overnight military raids throughout the West Bank.

**14 January 2017**

- Israeli occupying naval forces opened live fire on fishermen off the coast of the northern Gaza Strip.

**15 January 2017**

- Illegal Israeli settlers stormed the courtyard of Muhammad Muheisin's home, smashed outdoor furniture, damaged garden plants and shattered framed Quran verses. Muheisin and his family live on the ground floor of a six-storey building. Israeli settlers illegally took over the five upper apartments in October 2014. Since the takeover, settlers have repeatedly assaulted Muheisin and members of his family. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs documented 107 cases of settler attacks on Palestinians and their property throughout 2016.

**16 January 2017**

- Israeli occupying naval forces opened fire on Palestinian fishing boats and arrested two fishermen who had been sailing off the Gaza shore.

- Israeli occupying forces confiscated two Palestinian-owned tractors in the village of Khirbet Ebzeeq, east of Tubas, under the pretext that the tractors were inside a military zone.

- Israeli occupying forces started to uproot hundreds of olive trees belonging to Palestinians in an area to the east of Qalqilia, under the pretext of opening a road designated for the sole use of Jewish settlers residing in illegal West Bank settlements. One of the landowners, Mousa Al-Tabeeb, said the total number of trees intended to be uprooted is around 2,000, including 500-year-old trees.

- Israeli occupying forces killed Qusai Al-Amour (age 17) in the village of Tuqou', near Bethlehem. They had dragged him 100 metres while seriously injured, and he died shortly after. Israeli occupying forces opened fire on Palestinians who tried to help Qusai, injuring four, one of them an elderly woman.

**17 January 2017**

- Firas Mahmoud was forced to tear down his own house in Al-Issawiya after the occupying Power had informed him that it was going to demolish the house and force him to pay for it.

- Nidal Mahdawi (age 44), from the suburb of Sheiwkeh, north of Tulkarm, was shot dead by Israeli occupying forces at an illegal military checkpoint.

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**Security Council**
**Seventy-second year**

## Identical letters dated 24 January 2017 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I regret to inform you of the continuing grave breaches being perpetrated by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in flagrant contempt of international law and in defiance of the international community and with devastating consequences for the two-State solution and the prospect for peace.

In the month since the adoption by the Security Council of resolution 2334 (2016), which, inter alia, reaffirmed the illegality of Israeli settlement activities and demanded their complete cessation as well as respect on the part of the occupying Power for its obligations under international law, the Israeli Government has been unrelenting in its rejectionist and inflammatory rhetoric, provocative decisions and illegal actions, all in direct violation of the resolution's provisions and the long-standing demand of the international community that Israel cease its illegal settlement campaign in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and that it genuinely commit to the two-State solution on the basis of the 1967 borders, in both word and deed.

On Sunday, 22 January 2017, the occupying Power's authorities granted approval for the construction of 566 more units in illegal settlements in Occupied East Jerusalem. The meaning of such a number must be underscored, for those units translate into the facilitation of the illegal transfer of thousands more Israeli settlers, further altering the demographic composition and character of Occupied East Jerusalem, all in deliberate violation of international law and the relevant United Nations resolutions, including resolution 2334 (2016), which was patently clear as to the prohibitions and the obligations incumbent upon the occupying Power in this regard.

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This illegal, provocative decision was followed today by the approval by the Israeli Prime Minister himself of another 2,500 units in illegal settlements throughout the Occupied West Bank. The Prime Minister has, among other things, brazenly declared that "we are building and will continue to build". The implementation of such a decision will result in the further expansion of illegal Israeli settlements and related infrastructure, including the wall, in Occupied Palestine, including East Jerusalem, and further entrench the occupation, rather than reverse the negative trends in this regard, as clearly called for by the Security Council and by the Quartet in the recommendations contained in its 1 July 2016 report and statements thereafter.

These actions, in addition to the crimes enumerated in the annex to the present letter, reveal the true unlawful, annexationist intentions of the Israeli Government, its intent to persist with its half-century foreign occupation of the Palestinian people and land, and the deceit of its proclaimed commitment to the two-State solution. While the global consensus is that salvaging the two-State solution based on the 1967 lines is dependent on the full, immediate cessation and reversal of all such illegal activities, the rhetoric, decisions and actions by the Israeli Government are totally to the contrary and constitute grave violations of international law and blatant contempt for the international community.

As stated today in this regard by Dr. Hanan Ashrawi on behalf of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization: "Once again, the Israeli Government has proved that it is more committed to land theft and colonialism than to the two-State solution and the requirements for peace and stability. Such a deliberate escalation of Israel's illegal settlement enterprise constitutes a war crime and the flagrant violation of international law and conventions, in particular United Nations Security Council resolution 2334."

We urge the international community to unequivocally reject and condemn such illegal Israeli actions and provocations. A clear message must be sent to the occupying Power that such contempt for the law and the international community will not be tolerated and that international law and United Nations resolutions must be respected by all States. No State should be given the privilege to be the exception to the law.

Furthermore, we urge that serious and practical measures be undertaken by the international community, aimed at bringing about a complete cessation of Israeli settlement activities and that Israel, the occupying Power, be held accountable for the continuation of this and any other breaches of the law. In this regard, we stress the imperative of the implementation of resolution 2334 (2016) in its entirety. We recall the obligations stipulated in the resolution, in terms of both the obligations of the occupying Power and those of States and the international community as a whole, to bring an end to this illegal situation, to reverse the negative trends on the ground that are destroying the two-State solution and to advance a just, comprehensive and lasting peace.

The viability of the two-State solution is dependent on this, as is the prospect for Palestinian-Israeli peace. At the same time, it is obvious that the credibility and viability of international law and the international system are at stake. The international community, with the Security Council at the forefront, must answer such defiance by Israel, the occupying Power, with a firm resolve for peace,

commitment to the law, support for the two-State solution and rejection of all such illegal actions and provocations. The key to this is clear: working immediately, [illegible] faithfully to uphold and implement resolution 2334 (2016) and the international consensus in this regard.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 602 previous letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 20 January 2017 (A/ES-10/[illegible], S/2017/62), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations

## Annex to the identical letters dated 24 January 2017 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

**20 January 2017**

- A 6-year-old child from Beit Lahiya was seriously injured as a result of being hit in the stomach by a bullet fired by Israeli occupying forces along the northern border of the Gaza Strip.

**21 January 2017**

- Israeli occupying forces opened fire on civilian homes and farms east of the town of Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip.

**22 January 2017**

- Israeli occupying forces detained seven Palestinians during raids in Bethlehem and Jerusalem.
- The occupying Power approved the construction of another 566 units in the illegal Israeli settlements in Occupied East Jerusalem.

**23 January 2017**

- Israeli occupying forces opened fire on Palestinian fishing boats near Al-Sudaniya, in northern Gaza, while sailing within 4 nautical miles. One fisherman was moderately injured in the head.
- Israeli occupying forces detained 24 Palestinians from across the West Bank, including a woman and seven children.
- Occupying forces notified a Palestinian man from Al-Khader village, south of Bethlehem, that he must leave his land near the village, claiming that the land was State property and that no Palestinian should enter it.
- Occupying forces raided the village of Husan, west of Bethlehem, and seized construction materials and tools from a car mechanic's shop under the pretext that the owners did not have permits.

**24 January 2017**

- The occupying Power announced the approval of plans for the construction of another 2,500 units in the illegal settlements throughout the West Bank.

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**Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory**

**Security Council**
**Seventy-second year**

## Identical letters dated 27 January 2017 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

In the present letter, our second letter this week, we are compelled to write to you to place on record our unequivocal condemnation of Israel's continued building and expansion of illegal settlements in the Occupied State of Palestine, including East Jerusalem. Clearly, with the continuation of its insidious colonization of confiscated and stolen Palestinian land, Israel, the occupying Power, is sending a crystal clear message that it is determined to continue, arrogantly and aggressively, to defy the will of the international community, violate international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, as well as international criminal law as articulated in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, as well as to defy the resolutions of the United Nations, including Security Council resolution 2334 (2016), recently adopted by the Council on 23 December 2016.

In this regard, just yesterday, Thursday, 26 January 2017, the Israeli occupying authorities announced plans to build 153 more settlement units in the illegal settlement of "Gilo" in Occupied East Jerusalem. This announcement came on the heels of the occupying Power's announcement of the approval of the construction of 566 units in illegal settlements also in occupied East Jerusalem on Sunday, 22 January 2017, for a total of 719 more illegal settlement units in just one week. Of course, these additional 719 settlement units will illegally house thousands of illegal, extremist and violent settlers who will not only continue to attack Palestinian civilians and their property under the watchful eye and protection of Israeli occupying forces with complete impunity, but also contribute to the altering of the demographic composition and character of the Occupied East Jerusalem. In addition to these illegal actions mentioned above, Israeli authorities, in statements and comments to the press, promise to continue with this dangerous trend of illegal settlement building. In this connection, after this provocative announcement was



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delivered, the so-called Deputy Mayor of Jerusalem stated that he was "going to deliver permits for thousands of homes in Jerusalem in the coming months".

Here, we wish to state the obvious, which is that the occupying Power will continue to act above the law unless a clear message is sent by the international community, including the Security Council, that it will not shy away from taking the necessary action against Israel's illegal measures, which are deliberately trying to bury the two-State solution. After the unequivocally clear message that was sent to the occupying Power with the adoption of Security Council resolution 2334 (2016), Israel, the occupying Power, which is also a full member of the United Nations, must not be allowed to defy the will of the international community, specifically the Security Council, without consequence. In this regard, we call again for the international community, led by the Security Council, to be firm and unwavering in its commitment to the law and to its own resolutions and also to be unyielding in its response to the occupying Power by taking the necessary measures to save the viability of the two-State solution and the possibility for Israeli-Palestinian peace before it is too late.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 603 previous letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 24 January 2017 (A/ES-10/740-S/2017/67) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer
of the State of Palestine to the United Nations

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**Security Council**
**Seventy-second year**

## Identical letters dated 1 February 2017 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I write to you today to convey our alarm at the decision by the Government of Israel, the occupying Power, to proceed with plans for the construction of another 3,000 units in Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in direct, grave contravention of international law and Security Council resolutions and in defiance of the international community.

In less than two weeks, the Israeli Government, which is blatantly exploiting transitions in the global political landscape, is moving ahead with unlawful schemes for the construction of more than 6,000 settlement units on occupied Palestinian land. This is a rate unprecedented in recent years and surpassing that of the entirety of 2016, a year in which Israel demonstrated persistent, systematic and deliberate contempt for the demands of the international community to cease all of its settlement activities, abide by its legal obligations and commit in good faith to the two-State solution on the basis of the 1967 lines.

Security Council resolution 2334 (2016) was unequivocally clear in this regard. Its adoption reflects a firm and long-standing global consensus on the matter and has been broadly deemed timely and imperative, considering the dangers confronting the two-State solution and the real risks for further escalation and destabilization of the situation on the ground.

Here it must be recalled that, in its resolution 2334 (2016), the Security Council, inter alia:

> 1. *Reaffirms* that the establishment by Israel of settlements in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem, has no legal validity and constitutes a flagrant violation under international law and a



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major obstacle to the achievement of the two-State solution and a just, lasting and comprehensive peace;

2. *Reiterates* its demand that Israel immediately and completely cease all settlement activities in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, and that it fully respect all of its legal obligations in this regard.

Moreover, in its resolution 2334 (2016), the Security Council calls, inter alia, for affirmative steps to be taken immediately to reverse the negative trends on the ground that are imperilling the two-State solution, and calls upon both parties to act on the basis of international law, including international humanitarian law, and their previous agreements and obligations, to observe calm and restraint, and to refrain from provocative actions, incitement and inflammatory rhetoric.

There is no question that Israel is blatantly and flagrantly violating all of these provisions and all other relevant Security Council resolutions. Confronted with such unlawful, aggressive behaviour, the international community cannot remain silent. The Council's credibility and international law are at stake.

It is urgent that all provisions of resolution 2334 (2016) be immediately upheld and implemented in the face of such egregious violations and blatant disrespect for the authority and legislation of the Security Council. In accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the Council's decisions cannot simply remain words on paper, but must be respected. This is the obligation of every State, without exception.

There must be firm condemnation of the recent Israeli decisions and clear reiteration of the demand for cessation of all settlement activities. This is urgent, for we are at a critical crossroads. Such illegal Israeli measures will lead to the further confiscation of Palestinian land, the forced displacement of more Palestinian civilians and the transfer of tens of thousands more Israeli settlers to Occupied Palestine, including East Jerusalem, more deeply enmeshing the two populations, entrenching the occupation and facilitating Israeli annexation plans to acquire more land by force, which are being pushed for and boasted about by members of the Israeli Government, along with other extremist voices.

If not stopped, such actions will irrevocably destroy the two-State solution, along with the comprehensive peace prospects boldly presented by the Arab Peace Initiative. Upon their destruction, it is Israel, the occupying Power, that must be held accountable, and the international community must also face up to its own responsibilities to resolve, justly and viably, this decades-long conflict and injustice.

The Palestinian people will never accept a situation of "perpetual occupation". There is actually no such thing as "perpetual occupation". International humanitarian law clearly stipulates that situations of foreign occupation are to be temporary, a criterion long-exceeded and grossly violated by Israel. The current and looming situation has all of the hallmarks of an apartheid situation. It is not only the Palestinian people and their leaders, but also the international community as a whole that will be compelled to deal with it as such, if the purposes and principles of the Charter are to stand and be defended, if human rights are to be respected, if civilians are to be protected and if the rule of law, the underpinning of our world order, is to be upheld.

We are not just at a turning point; we are arriving at the point of no return, and the death knell for the two-State solution is near. This is neither an exaggeration nor a threat; it is the reality. We thus reiterate our call for the Security Council, supported by all concerned and responsible States, to act immediately to salvage the minimal prospects for peace and for a new era in the Middle East that may remain.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 604 previous letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 27 January 2017 (A/ES-10/741-S/2017/83), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations

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**Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory**

**Security Council**
**Seventy-second year**

## Identical letters dated 7 February 2017 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I write to you once again with great alarm about the illegal actions and provocative measures that continue to be perpetrated by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. Day after day, we are witness to Israel's absolute contempt for Security Council resolutions and its hostile opposition to, and in fact destruction of, the two-State solution in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions and on the basis of the 1967 lines.

In the few short weeks since the Council's adoption of resolution 2334 (2016), Israel has committed thousands of violations. The occupying Power has done this intentionally and systematically, in grave breach of international law and total disrespect for the Council's decisions and the clear calls by the international community as a whole to cease its violations and commit to peace.

Yesterday, 6 February, immediately following the decisions to advance plans for the construction of more than 5,500 settlement units in illegal settlements across the Occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, the Israeli Knesset adopted the so-called "regularization bill", a scheme being presented as "law" with the express purpose of facilitating and authorizing the expropriation, colonization and ultimate de facto annexation of Palestinian land.

We drew attention to this specific matter in our letter of 20 December 2016 (A/ES-10/736-S/2016/1083) and are compelled to do so again today. This provocative Israeli measure constitutes a blatant attempt to "legalize" a crime. It aims at reinforcing Israel's illegal settlement enterprise and sanctifying the theft of our land, whether by Israeli settlers or the Government and its occupying forces. In this regard, we reiterate: Israeli settlement activities — regardless of their classification by the occupying Power as settlements, "settlement outposts" or otherwise and regardless of attempts to pervert the law — are illegal in every manifestation, whether on privately owned or public land in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.

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Colonization is colonization, no matter how it is packaged or presented, and it is strictly prohibited. International law is clear: the Fourth Geneva Convention prohibits the transfer of civilians of the occupying Power into the occupied territory; Additional Protocol I deems such measures to be grave breaches; and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court affirms that such actions constitute war crimes. No amount of legal manipulation by Israel can evade these unequivocal prohibitions.

The reality is that this "bill" is the continuation of a long line of illegal Israeli policies and practices over a half-century of occupation of the Palestinian land and oppression of the Palestinian people, violations for which the occupying Power has never been held accountable. The fact is that every single measure taken to prop up, extend and entrench this occupation — every settlement unit constructed in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem; every inch of wall erected in deviation of the Green Line; every military order issued to confiscate Palestinian land or demolish a Palestinian home; every forced displacement of a Palestinian family; every killing of a civilian — child, woman or man; every arrest and detention of innocent civilians; every day of imposition of the blockade on the Gaza Strip — is unlawful, regardless of the distorted legal and security pretexts presented by Israel. As such, the occupation itself, at its core and in all of its dimensions, is illegal and must end.

Under these circumstances, the responsibilities of the international community are clear, and upholding the law and holding Israel to account for its breaches become more urgent than ever. The illegal will not suddenly become legal because of such a so-called "regularization bill" by the occupying Power. The law – international law and as enshrined in numerous Security Council and General Assembly resolutions — is clear and remains unchanged.

Moreover, it is clear that the creation of such unilateral, illegal conditions on the ground — obviously intended to prejudge the outcome of negotiations for a solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict — will not be accepted, neither by Palestine nor by the international community. This was reaffirmed by the Security Council in resolution 2334 (2016), in which the Council "underlines that it will not recognize any changes to the 4 June 1967 lines, including with regard to Jerusalem, other than those agreed by the parties through negotiations".

This and other provisions reaffirm the letter and spirit of the law and what has been repeatedly stated at every juncture: (a) a solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict must be based on international law and relevant United Nations resolutions; and (b) negotiations on that basis, not the unilateral imposition of facts on the ground, are the path for achieving such a just, peaceful and lasting solution.

The Palestinian leadership has firmly committed itself to both pillars, accepting the historic compromise of two States based on the pre-1967 borders in accordance with international law, United Nations resolutions, the Madrid principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Quartet road map and engaging for over two decades in good-faith negotiations to end the occupation and achieve a just and comprehensive peace agreement and the rights of the Palestinian people. Most recently, this commitment has been reaffirmed in our declarations of respect for resolution 2334 (2016) and all provisions therein without exception. Palestine restates that commitment today, in spite of Israel's flagrant violations, which are destroying the two-State solution and causing the Palestinian people to lose faith in the possibility of ever achieving such a solution and in the prospects for realizing justice, peace and coexistence.

Indeed, our resolve, as well as that of the international community, is being severely tested by such relentless, illegal and provocative Israeli actions. This most recent measure by the Israeli Knesset must be firmly condemned and rejected. Israel must be demanded to cease and reverse these illegal measures and must be held accountable for this and all other violations that it continues to commit in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. Serious efforts must be undertaken by the international community, particularly the Security Council, to implement resolution 2334 (2016) and all other relevant United Nations resolutions. This is vital both for salvaging the two-State solution and the prospect of a peaceful and secure future for both peoples and for upholding the rule of law, all of which are being gravely undermined at this moment.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 605 previous letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 1 February 2017 (A/ES-10/742-S/2017/96), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine
to the United Nations

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**Security Council**
**Seventy-second year**

## Identical letters dated 8 February 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I am writing to you in my capacity as Chair of the Ambassadorial Group of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in New York to convey the Group's alarm about the latest Israeli violations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. Despite the very clear demands by the Security Council, most recently in its resolution 2334 (2016) of 23 December 2016, for a halt to all Israeli settlement activities, the occupying Power persists with such illegal and destructive measures.

In addition to announcing plans for the construction of thousands more units in illegal Israeli settlements across the occupied West Bank, including in and around East Jerusalem, the occupying Power has just passed a so-called "regularization bill", which is another attempt to entrench its illegal settlements and so-called "settlement outposts" and to further facilitate the expropriation of Palestinian land with total impunity. The bill attempts to entrench another 4,000 Israeli settlement units in Occupied Palestine in addition to the thousands of settlement units illegally constructed and to which more than 600,000 Israeli settlers have been illegally transferred by the occupying Power.

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation emphasizes that the aforementioned bill represents a flagrant breach of the relevant resolutions of the Security Council and General Assembly as well as blatant disregard for the will of the international community. Most recently, the Security Council, in resolution 2334 (2016), clearly condemned such unlawful Israeli colonization policies and called for their immediate cessation and for Israel's compliance with its legal obligations. This latest illegal measure, however, demonstrates Israel's total contempt for the law, for the will of the international community and for the fundamental pillars of peace in accordance with the two-State solution based on the pre-1967 borders. Rather than committing itself to peace on the basis of the relevant United Nations resolutions,



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the Madrid principles, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Quartet road map, in line with the long-standing international consensus, Israel chooses over and over again to pursue illegal and unilateral policies that aim to cement its colonial occupation and are destroying the physical viability of the two-State solution and the chances of a just and lasting peace being achieved.

These most recent Israeli actions flouting the law compel us to call once again for all efforts to be exerted, in accordance with international law and the relevant United Nations resolutions, to bring a halt to Israel's systematic violations and denial of the rights of the Palestinian people and to advance the long overdue realization of their rights, including to self-determination and freedom in their independent State, and the achievement of a just and lasting solution to this conflict. It is high time to stop treating Israel as a State above the law and to hold it accountable for its violations and grave breaches of international law. Effective steps need to be taken by the international community to enforce the Security Council's resolutions. This is imperative for bringing an end to Israel's constant violations of international law and preserving the chances of realizing the two-State solution on the basis of the 1967 lines.

On behalf of OIC, and in view of the above-mentioned serious Israeli breach of international law, I sincerely appeal to you to do whatever is possible, in your capacity, to support the implementation of Security Council resolution 2334 (2016). Israel must be compelled to stop its violations and reverse all of its recent illegal measures, which pose serious risks to the already fragile situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the prospects for achieving peace.

Your good offices and your positive and proactive engagement with regard to this serious matter would thus be greatly appreciated.

I should also be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Muzaffar **Madrakhimov**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
Chair of the Ambassadorial Group of the
Organization of Islamic Cooperation in New York